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Panchayat Courts

Transfer of Tekkate village to the jurisdiction of the Ultur Panchayat Court.

*867 Q.—Mr K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Tekkate village, No. 60, Coondapoor taluk, is now under the jurisdiction of the Koteshwar Panchayat Court as before or of any other court;

(b) whether the residents protested against their village being brought under the Ultur Court in about June last;

(c) whether they made a petition, dated 22nd June 1928, to the hon. the Commissioner of Land Revenue protesting against the transfer and with what result; and

(d) whether Government propose to retransfer the village to the Koteshwar Panchayat Court after consulting the wishes of the residents and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) The village of Tekkate, which was originally within the local jurisdiction of the Koteshwar Panchayat Court, was transferred to that of the Ultur Panchayat Court with effect from the 1st September 1928.

(b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) No facts have been brought to the notice of Government to justify the action proposed

Stamps

Selling of court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through stamp-vendors.

*868 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Government have arrived at any decision on the question of selling court-fee stamps up to Rs. 100 through vendors, with reference to the cut in the demand for stamps during the last budget debate?

A.—The subject is under the consideration of the Government.

Finance

Utilization of the remitted provincial contributions.

*869 Q.—Mr. S SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have laid down or propose to lay down a policy for the appropriation of the three crores and a half of provincial contributions now wiped out;

(b) whether such a policy includes the lowering of taxation which has been raised recently in the province, and if not, why not; and

(c) what such a policy is and whether the Council will be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion thereon?

A.—(a) The final budget estimate for the current year 1928–29, after taking into account the remission of the whole provincial contribution of Rs. 348 lakhs, provided for an excess of expenditure on revenue account over anticipated revenues of Rs. 8·30 lakhs.

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(b) A statement of the items involving loss of revenue arising out of the budget estimate for 1928–29 was printed as an appendix to the speech introducing the budget estimates of the year.

(c) The financial policy of the Government comes under examination by the Council during the budget discussions of each year; the estimates for 1929-30 will be placed before the Council on 26th February 1929.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to clause (b) of the question, I find on a reference to the appendix to the speech introducing the budget estimates of the year, that the total recurring loss of revenue to the Government was 7·79 lakhs. May I know, apart from that, whether the Government have any proposals for lowering the taxation as regards the next year?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"The answer to the question will be found under clause (c)."

Mr S. SATYAMURTI :—"The answer says it is for the Council to decide it. I ask whether, so far as the Government is concerned, which introduces the budget, they have any proposals for lowering the taxation?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"They will be placed before the house in connexion with the estimates for 1929–30."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I ask whether in view of getting the opinion of the Council as to the proper distribution of the remitted provincial contributions the Government propose to take the opinion of the Council as regards the lowering of taxation?"

The hon Mr. T. E. MOIR :—"It will obviously be done in connexion with the budget."

Railways

Opening of the railway line between Cuddalore O.T. and Vriddhachalam.

* 870 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the new railway line between Cuddalore O.T. and Vriddhachalam was originally planned to run between Porto Novo and Vriddhachalam;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for altering the original plans and estimates and at whose suggestion and recommendation it was done;

(c) whether public opinion was consulted by the authorities before the alteration was made and whether any commercial experts recommended the alterations of the said railway line, and what were the advantages gained by such an alteration;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints that the opening of the new railway line between Cuddalore O.T. and Vriddhachalam is likely to seriously affect the commercial prosperity of Porto Novo and minimize its export trade and hamper its growth as a seaport; and

(e) if not, whether the Government will investigate into the manner in, and extent to, which the opening of the new railway line has affected the export and import trade at Porto Novo and lay the report of such investigation on the table of the House?